

Lynchburg Electoral Board Meeting

November 22, 2021

**Meeting Held GLTC Conference Room
800 Kemper Street**

Members present:

David B. Neumeyer, Chair
Carolyn Sherayko, Vice Chair,
John W. Cobbs, Secretary

Others present:

Christine Gibbons, General Registrar
Juleigh Brown, General Registrar Intern
Jeff Rosner, Lynchburg Democratic Party Authorized Representative
Nikki Sanders, Lynchburg Democratic Party Chair
Eric Harrison, Lynchburg Republican Party Chair
Wendell Walker
Micky Ferguson
Sharon Jones
Ben Jones
Carl Hutcherson
Robert Flood
Patsy Pennix
Valerie Chambers
Donald Preston

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Neumeyer at 4:09 p.m.

Approval of the minutes and agenda

Approval of November 22, 2021 Electoral Board Meeting Agenda as proposed. Motion made by John Cobbs, Secretary. Seconded by Carolyn Sherayko, Vice Chair. Motion approved unanimously.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss

New Business:

Report by the Lynchburg Electoral Board regarding incidents at Precinct 4-1 located at Crosspoint Church. David Neumeyer, Chair, opened the meeting by asking all those present to introduce themselves. David Neumeyer, began the meeting informing those present that the meeting here today is to discuss the investigation that was conducted by the electoral board regarding the incidents that occurred at Precinct 4-1. The Electoral Board heard from the Chief and Assistant Chief, Election Officers, as well as statements submitted by Eric Harrison, Republican Party of Lynchburg Chair and others. A draft summary was completed by David Neumeyer, the draft is a non-repetitive piece which contains all the information, relevant code, and identifies the Electoral Board proposed actions to be presented. Certainly, some will have disagreements on what was said and done. The draft was shared with fellow electoral board members. The Electoral Board agrees that there is need for training. Further, the electoral board believes strongly that is important the public are educated on how the voting process works as it is a complicated process. It is the recommendation that trainings before each election occur and more broadly involves the parties. The Electoral Board encourages in their proposal that poll watchers (authorized representatives should attend the training also). This could dispel some of the misunderstandings that occurred on November 2, 2021. The board encourages those present to read through the draft summary of the incident and make recommendations for electoral board, registrar, the party, and the public. The public or those present will have until November 30, 2021 to request a comment to be added to the draft summary. These comments can be emailed to David Neumeyer, Chair at his city email address.

Discussion and presentation of findings occurred with public comment interspersed throughout the remainder of the public meeting. The following are public comments.

Donald Preston: voting process for quite some time. Seeing things that are just not right. A lot of things we can legislate and some we can't. Read a statement from John F. Kennedy. "Let us not be petty when our cause is so great." Be aware. He has served as an officer of election at RS Payne for about 15 years.

Carl Hutcherson: Thank you for allowing us to come today. I represent a non-profit, in recent years we seem to have had more discord as it relates to elections. There are people who put party above political. Learn mistakes that are made and there have been about a lot of mistakes that have been made. I don't think Ben and Sharon were respected. Should have those with oversight speak to those who disrespected Ben and Sharon. Sitting delegate here today. You are my delegate too.

Wendell Walker: He is here as a private citizen. He is here to Learn the facts and how we could improve the process.

Ben Jones; As we go through the process we have a common goal, run impartial and fair elections. Sharon and I have been doing this in excess of 18 years. After long shift people are

able to see what election officials go through for these fair and impartial elections. Our goal is to make sure voters given opportunity to vote. Live with voters, as they move through life. Help with voting curbside. Please let us work together to get this job done.

Sharon Jones: Took training that poll workers took. Saw a lot of disinformation. Voters have always been respectful. Poll watchers that came into the precinct not all bad. "Be aggressive' be respectful, but be aggressive". She watched the Virginia Election Integrity's YouTube Videos four training sessions. Will send the link to the board. Spent most of the day answering questions from poll workers. Each served 18 years started with paper pollbooks, always in the same precinct.

Nikki Sanders: Democratic poll observers training not on YouTube.

Jeff Rosner: Recommendations to have observers join the training by electoral board. Continue to have both party training and by electoral board. Where does the training come from? Important the training by parties has the same safeguards. Recruitment, applies to both, parties who they recruit, including past activities, those responsible for improper actions make sure they never serve as election observers again. Avoid rhetoric on "lack of election integrity" real evidence this kind of rhetoric will be seen. Findings in number 1 and 3 of the draft summary regarding photographing and videoing intimidating to take any photos within the polling place.

Carolyn Sherayko: asked Republican Chair regarding training. Who is in charge of training for Republican poll watchers.

Eric Harrison: In the draft summary on page 2 the code doesn't define entrance, hole in the wall for egress. People who work polling location need to understand. Certain personalities over the top, ignorance of the law, people's emotions got the better of them. Relayed to me on the 24.2-607. See the tape. Folks ministering the election, Moments of reflection, going to put the tapes on the table. Make sure everything was the laws are. More clear operating understanding of the laws.

Sharon Jones: Young lady sat next to me while the tapes were laid on the table. Escalated, because she was not aware of the rule.

Patsy Pennix: Didn't want to be involved in a situation like this. I feared for my life.

Robert Flood from Lynchburg NAACP: Someone was trying to intimidate someone. See this over and over. Time to stop.

The board then moved to end the public meeting and discussion of the report and summary of the incident that occurred at Precinct 4-1, located at Crosspoint Church.

Mr. Cobbs at 4:12 p.m. made a motion to enter Executive Session under Code of Virginia 2.2-3711 to discuss personnel considerations. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherayko and approved unanimously.

Members present:	David Neumeyer	yes
	Carolyn Sherayko	yes
	John Cobbs	yes

At 4:39 p.m. Mr. Cobbs made a motion to exit Executive Session and Mrs. Sherayko seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Members present:	David Neumeyer	yes
	Carolyn Sherayko	yes
	John Cobbs	yes

Certification of Executive Session

Pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and because Virginia Code 2.2-3711 requires the Board to certify that such Executive Session was conducted in uniformity with Virginia Law, the Board certified by vote call that, to the best of each member's knowledge only personnel considerations were discussed in Executive Session.

Certify by Motion	David Neumeyer	yes
	Carolyn Sherayko	yes
	John Cobbs	yes

Motion approved unanimously.

Other business:

There being no further business, Mr. Neumeyer adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Next meeting Date: December 2, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Cobbs, Secretary
Electoral Board
City of Lynchburg